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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF
GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED
DEMOCRACIES

Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on
11 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union regarding the
demonstrations by students and secondary school pupils in the former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its
annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 38 of the
preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the
United Nations

* A/52/50.



ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 11 March 1997 by the Presidency of the
European Union regarding the demonstrations by students and
secondary school pupils in the former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia

1. The European Union expresses deep concern about recent demonstrations by students and secondary school pupils in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, during which (anti)-ethnic slogans were heard in the streets of both Skopje and Tetovo.
2. The European Union is aware of the difficulties the country faces in its transition to a market economy and a pluralistic multi-ethnic society.
3. The extent of European Union support for the transition process in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has recently been confirmed during the G-24 consultative group meeting, held on 25 and 26 February 1997.
4. A stable and prosperous country is not only in the interest of the population of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia but is also essential for the stability of the region as a whole.
5. The European Union supports the appeal of the Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the citizens of the country to continue to work for a strengthening of inter-ethnic trust and respect. The European Union calls upon all political forces in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to work together in a peaceful and democratic way in order to find a solution for problems still existing.
6. The European Union recalls that in accordance with commitments undertaken in the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, respect for ethnic and national minorities is of the utmost importance for national stability and the development of good-neighbourly relations.
7. The European Union reaffirms its support for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in maintaining internal social and political stability during this difficult stage of transition to a civil society and a market economy.
